AUDITION NOTICE
for the fall-term mainstage production:

The Island of Slaves
by Pierre Marivaux
Translated from French and directed by Prof. Neil Blackadder

Auditions: Friday Sep. 11, 7pm, Harbach Theatre, CFA

Four survivors of a shipwreck – a gentleman and his valet, a lady and her maid – find themselves on an unusual island, occupied some years earlier by former slaves. When people get stranded here, they must switch roles: servants become masters, masters find out what it’s like to be servants. Marivaux’s play, which premiered in Paris in 1725, is at once an enchanting commedia dell’arte-inspired comedy and a resonant exploration of power relations. The director will refine the translation as well as developing the production approach through a collaborative rehearsal process.

There are four named characters, all sizeable roles:

   IPHICRATES, a gentleman          EUPHROSYNE, a lady
   HARLEQUIN, his valet              CLÉANTHIS, her maid

Marivaux’s script has a fifth character, the spokesperson for the islanders, called Trivelin, plus “inhabitants of the island” with non-speaking roles. I’m going to create an ensemble of islanders and will divide Trivelin’s lines among them. So I’ll also cast the following, all of whom will end up with small speaking roles:

   An ensemble of around 4 islanders, of any gender

All students – including new students! – are invited to audition, and no preparation is necessary. The auditions will mostly involve cold readings: you’ll be given a copy of a short scene from the script and asked to read a part; you’ll all get to do this at least a couple of times. I’ll also have students auditioning participate in some improv exercises.

Declared Theatre majors are expected to present a monologue, and I encourage non-majors who have a monologue ready to do so too. Regarding what kind of material to present in the monologue, something in a comic mode and from a pre-20th-century period would be most appropriate—but neither is essential. Even if it’s a contemporary realistic monologue, it will help me to see it, but most important is that you’ve really prepared the piece.

   Performance dates: Wed.-Sat. October 28-31

Questions? Contact the Director at nblackad@knox.edu or Stage Manager at ewlipson@knox.edu